

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 16587 052152Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03  
/083 W

-----070286 060826Z /64

R 051433Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 184  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ELAB, LY, EG  
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN WORKER EXODUS FROM LIBYA

REF TRIPOLI 1263,

1. HIGH LEVEL LABOR MIN SOURCE AGREES THAT "AT LEAST" 100,000 EGYPTIAN WORKERS HAVE LEFT LIBYA IN PAST MONTHS (REFTEL). SOURCE, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THAT SOME 250,000 LIKELY STILL TO BE HERE. EGYPTIANS HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING HOW MANY THERE SINCE, WHILE APPROX 250,000 REGISTERED ON ROLES, MANY IN PAST FEW YEARS HAVE ENTERED ONLY ID CARDS AND OTHERS ILLEGALLY.

2. EGYPTIANS FORSEE NO REAL DIFFICULTY WITH THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED BECAUSE MANY ARE SKILLED AND EASILY EMPLOYABLE IN EGYPT OR OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. EVEN UNSKILLED ARE BADLY NEEDED BY EGYPTIAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE URBAN AREAS. SOURCE OPINED THAT FURTHER LARGE-SCALE EXODUS NOT LIKELY. EVEN THOUGH MANY TECHNICAL WORKERS EAGER TO LEAVE, LIBYAN GOVT REPORTEDLY REFUSING EXIST VISAS TO  
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MANY. FURTHERMORE, LIBYAN FIVE YEAR PLAN PREDICATED ON PRESENCE OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND THESE NOT REPLACEABLE, WHETHER FROM TUNISIA OR OTHER SOURCES. ADDITIONALLY, MANY EGYPTIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA WORK FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES WHO ARE INDIFFERENT TO QADHAFI POLICY, HAVE CONTRACTS TO FULFILL AND NO INTENTION OF FIRING EGYPTIANS.

3. COMMENT: GOE HAS THUS FAR VIEWED PROBLEM IN PURELY POL-  
ITICAL CONTEXT. ANY CONCERN WITH IMPACT OF EXODUS ON EGYPTIAN  
LABOR FORCE THUS FAR UNDETECTABLE.  
MATTHEWS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMIGRANTS, FOREIGN WORKERS, EXIT VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 05-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO16587  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** fb2f784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TRIPOLI 1263  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1384642  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, ELAB, LY, EG  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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